Amendments to the Claims

The listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application.

1. (Currently Amended) An integrated control system for providing hierarchical control of distributed home entertainment electronic devices, comprising:

a remote interface configured to receive a remote control signal that includes a request for an action to be performed at one of the distributed electronic devices;

a device database configured to store device information for the distributed electronic devices;

a controller configured to generate management instructions to adjust the distributed electronic devices based on the action to be performed at the one of the distributed electronic devices and the device information ~~for managing the operation of said integrated control system~~;

a translator ~~coupled to said controller for translating~~ configured to translate the management instructions into management messages that are encoded based on communication protocols supported by the distributed electronic devices ~~using a preferred communications protocol~~; and

~~a device database coupled to said controller for storing device information, wherein the device database includes user preferences for device settings;~~

at least one communications interface ~~coupled to said controller for transmitting and receiving~~ configured to transmit the management messages to the distributed ~~home entertainment~~ electronic devices.

2. (Currently Amended) The integrated control system of claim 1, wherein [[said]] the at least one communications interface includes a wireless interface.

3. (Currently Amended) The integrated control system of claim 2, wherein ~~said at least one communications~~ the wireless interface ~~includes~~ is an IEEE ~~802.11(b)~~ 802.11 interface.

4. (Currently Amended) The integrated control system of claim 2, wherein ~~said at least one communications~~ the wireless interface ~~includes~~ is a Bluetooth ~~an IEEE 802.11(e)~~ interface.

5. (Currently Amended) The integrated control system of claim 2, wherein ~~said at least one communications~~ the wireless interface ~~inferface includes~~ is an IEEE 802.15.3a interface.

6. (Currently Amended) The integrated control system of claim 1, wherein [[said]] the at least one communications interface includes a wireline interface.

7. (Currently Amended) The integrated control system of claim 6, wherein [[said]] the at least one communications interface includes a powerline interface.

8. (Currently Amended) The integrated control system of claim 1, wherein [[said]] the at least one communications interface includes both a wireline and a wireless interface.

9. (Currently Amended) A method [[to]] for providing hierarchical control of distributed home entertainment electronic devices, comprising:

[[(a)]] receiving a remote control signal that includes a request for an action to be performed at one of the distributed electronic device;

~~(b) interpretting said remote control signal;~~

[[(c)]] accessing ~~gathering~~ device information for the distributed electronic devices ~~impacted by said remote control signal, wherein the device information includes personal preferences for device settings~~;

generating management instructions to adjust the distributed electronic devices based on the action to be performed at the one of the electronic devices and the device information;

[[(d)]] translating the management instructions ~~said remote control signal~~ into ~~a~~ management ~~command~~ messages that are encoded based on the communication protocols supported by the distributed electronic devices;

~~(e) encoding a management message based on the management command;~~ and

[[(f)]] transmitting [[said]] the management ~~message~~ messages to the distributed electronic devices.

10. (Cancelled)

11. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 9, wherein ~~[[said]]~~ accessing the device information includes accessing a unique identifier for a device that ~~can be~~ is used to route management messages.

12. (Cancelled)

13. (Currently Amended) The method of claim [[11]] 44, wherein ~~[[said]]~~ the wireless ~~protocol is~~ protocols include IEEE 802.11(b).

14. (Currently Amended) The method of claim [[11]] 44, wherein ~~[[said]]~~ the wireless protocols include IEEE 802.11(e).

15. (Currently Amended) The method of claim [[11]] 44, wherein ~~[[said]]~~ the wireless protocols include IEEE 802.15.3a.

16. (Currently Amended) The method of claim [[11]] 44, wherein ~~[[said]]~~ the wireless protocols include Bluetooth.

17-39. (Cancelled)

40. (New) The method of claim 9, wherein accessing the device information includes accessing capabilities and status information for the distributed electronic devices.

41. (New) The method of claim 9, wherein accessing the device information includes accessing user preferences for settings of the distributed electronic devices.

42. (New) The method of claim 9, wherein accessing the device information includes accessing, for each of the distributed electronic devices, a supported communication protocol.

43. (New) The method of claim 42, further comprising:

encoding each management message based on the supported communication protocol of the distributed electronic device to which the management message is transmitted.

44. (New) The method of claim 43, wherein supported communication protocols include both wireless and wireline communication protocols.

45. (New) The method of claim 9, further comprising:

prior to generating the management instructions, interpreting the remote control signal to determine the action to be performed at the distributed electronic device.

46. (New) The integrated control system of claim 1, wherein the controller is configured to access the device information to generate the management instructions.

47. (New) The integrated control system of claim 46, wherein the device information includes capabilities and status information for the distributed electronic devices.

48. (New) The integrated control system of claim 46, wherein the device information includes routing information for the distributed electronic devices.

49. (New) The integrated control system of claim 46, wherein the device information includes user preferences for settings of the distributed electronic devices.

50. (New) The integrated control system of claim 46, wherein the device information identifies, for each of the distributed electronic devices, a supported communication protocol.

51. (New) The integrated control system of claim 50, wherein each management message is encoded based on the supported communication protocol of the distributed electronic device to which the management message is transmitted.